

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for automatically assigning electronic addresses to users, comprising:

providing a sequence of address generation scripts, each address generation script including a unique template that defines a structure for an electronic address;

~~providing administrator access for manual amendment of an address in an event that a valid address has not been generated by the sequence of address generation scripts;~~

automatically determining a valid electronic address for assigning to a user by iterating through the sequence of address generation scripts in order of which address generation script is preferred by an organization to which the user belongs, wherein the valid electronic address is determined when one of the address generation scripts, ~~or the manual administrator amendment,~~ produces a previously unused electronic address that is unique and complies with a predetermined addressing standard; [[and]]

allowing an administrator to append at least one character to the previously unused electronic address that is at least one of the following: not unique or does not comply with the predetermined addressing standard, wherein appending the at least one character creates a valid electronic address; and

automatically assigning the valid electronic address to the user,

wherein the valid electronic address is determined without consuming email reception resources of the organization.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic address is an electronic mailing address.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the one of the address generation scripts that produces the previously unused electronic address using user data is provided from a repository and wherein the sequence of address generation scripts are generated by an administrator.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the determining step comprises:

generating a first electronic address according to a first one of the sequence of address generation scripts; and

testing the first electronic address to determine if the first address is unique and complies with a predetermined addressing standard.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the testing step comprises:

comparing the first electronic address to a set of previously created electronic addresses to determine if the first address is unique; and

comparing the first electronic address to the predetermined addressing standard to determine if the first electronic address is compliant.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the set of previously created electronic addresses are stored in a repository with user data corresponding to the user.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the set of previously created electronic addresses are stored in an electronic address repository.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for automatically assigning electronic addresses to users, comprising:

providing a sequence of address generation scripts, each address generation script including a unique template that defines a structure for an electronic address;

~~providing administrator access for manual amendment of an address in an event that a valid address has not been generated by the sequence of address generation scripts;~~

retrieving user data from a repository, wherein the user data corresponds to a user requiring an electronic address;

automatically generating the electronic address for the user according to the user data and a first one of the sequence of address generation scripts, the first one of the address generation scripts being first in order of preference by an organization to which the user belongs;

automatically determining if the electronic address is valid, wherein the electronic address is valid if the electronic address is unique and complies with a predetermined addressing standard; and

automatically assigning the electronic address to the user if the electronic address is valid, wherein a new electronic address is generated for the user according to a second one of the

sequence of electronic address generation scripts if the electronic address is not valid, the second one of the address generation scripts being second in order of preference by the organization to which the user belongs, and wherein if the new electronic address is not valid, an administrator is allowed to append at least one character to an invalid electronic address to create the valid electronic address,

wherein the valid electronic address is determined without consuming email reception resources of the organization.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising:

generating a new electronic address for the user according to the second one of the sequence of address generation scripts if the electronic address is not valid;

determining if the new electronic address is valid; and

assigning the new electronic address to the user if the new electronic address is valid.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the determining step comprises determining if the electronic address is unique by comparing the electronic address to a set of previously created electronic addresses stored in the repository.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the determining step comprises determining if the electronic address is unique by checking the electronic address against a set of previously created electronic addresses stored in an electronic address repository.

12. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the determining step comprises determining if the electronic address is compliant by comparing the electronic address to the predetermined addressing standard.

13. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the electronic address is an electronic mailing address.

14. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the sequence of address generation scripts comprises a plurality of address generation scripts.

15. (Currently Amended) A system for automatically assigning electronic addresses to users, comprising:

an address generation system for generating a first electronic address for a user according to a first one of a sequence of address generation scripts, the first one of the address generation scripts being first in order of preference by an organization to which the user belongs, each address generation script including a unique template that defines a structure for an electronic address;

~~an administrator access system for manual amendment of an address in an event that a valid address has not been generated by the sequence of address generation scripts;~~

a validity system for automatically determining whether the first electronic address is valid, wherein the first electronic address is valid if the first electronic address is unique and complies with a predetermined addressing standard; and

an assignment system for automatically assigning the first electronic address to the user if the first electronic address is valid, wherein a second electronic address is generated by the address generation system according to a next one of the sequence of address generation scripts if the first electronic address is not valid, the next one of the address generation scripts being next in order of preference by the organization to which the user belongs, and wherein if the second electronic address is not valid, an administrator is allowed to append at least one character to an invalid electronic address to create the valid electronic address.

wherein the valid electronic address is determined without consuming email reception resources of the organization.

16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 15, wherein the first and second electronic addresses are electronic mailing addresses.

17. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the first electronic address is generated according to user data corresponding to the user and the first one of the sequence of address generation scripts.

18. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the validity system comprises:

a uniqueness detector for comparing the first electronic address to a set of previously created electronic addresses to determine if the first address is unique; and

a compliance detector for comparing the first electronic address to the predetermined addressing standard to determine if the first electronic address is compliant.

19. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein the set of previously created electronic addresses are stored in a repository with user data corresponding to the user.

20. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein the set of previously created electronic addresses are stored in an electronic address repository.

21. (Currently Amended) A recordable medium having a program product for automatically assigning electronic addresses to users, which when executed, comprises:

program code for automatically generating a first electronic address for assigning to a user according to a first one of a sequence of address generation scripts in order of which address generation script is preferred by an organization to which the user belongs, each address generation script including a unique template that defines a structure for an electronic address;

~~program code for allowing administrator access system for manual amendment of an address in an event that a valid address has not been generated by the sequence of address generation scripts;~~

program code for automatically determining whether the first electronic address is valid, wherein the first electronic address is valid if the first electronic address is unique and complies with a predetermined addressing standard; and

program code for automatically assigning the first electronic address to the user if the first electronic address is valid, wherein a second electronic address is generated according to a next one of the sequence of address generation scripts if the first electronic address is not valid, and

wherein if the second electronic address is not valid, an administrator is allowed to append at least one character to an invalid electronic address to create the valid electronic address,

wherein the valid electronic address is determined without consuming email reception resources of the organization.

22. (Previously Presented) The program product of claim 21, wherein the first and second electronic addresses are electronic mailing addresses.

23. (Original) The program product of claim 21, wherein the first electronic address is generated according to user data corresponding to the user and the first one of the sequence of address generation scripts.

24. (Previously Presented) The program product of claim 21, wherein the program code for determining whether the first electronic address is valid comprises:

program code for comparing the first electronic address to a set of previously created electronic addresses to determine if the first address is unique; and

program code for comparing the first electronic address to the predetermined addressing standard to determine if the first electronic address is compliant.

25. (Original) The program product of claim 24, wherein the set of previously created electronic addresses are stored in a repository with user data corresponding to the user.

26. (Original) The program product of claim 24, wherein the set of previously created electronic addresses are stored in an electronic address repository.